

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHC 8463

UNCLAS LAGOS 14455

TO : MR. N.R. SEAMAN
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TAGS: BEXP, NI
SUBJ: PROBDE STRUCTURE FOR POSSIBLE SCHOOL USE

1. EMBASSY MUCH APPRECIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH BEN SMITH DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO NIGERIA AND HIS DECEMBER 6 LETTER. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HIS RETURN HERE IN JANUARY.

2. SINCE SMITH'S DEPARTURE URGENT SITUATION REGARDING CONTINUANCE OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN LAGOS HAS ARISEN. PRESENT SITE OF SCHOOL IS IN NIGERIAN ARMY CANTONMENT. NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THAT WE MOVE SCHOOL TO 2.5 ACRE SITE ON VICTORIA ISLAND, PRESUMABLY TO BE IN PLACE BY SEPTEMBER 1977.

3. CONSIDERING NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY, IT SEEMS TO US THAT INSTALLATION OF A PORTOMOD STRUCTURE ON A LEASE CONTRACT BASIS WOULD BE GOOD SOLUTION. WE ARE FURTHER ATTRACTED TO THIS APPROACH BY POSSIBILITY THAT SEAMAN INTERNATIONAL MIGHT BE ALSO BE UTILIZE THE STRUCTURE LATER IN MOVING IT ON TO A NIGERIAN PURCHASER. OUR EVENTUAL OBJECTIVES IS TO ACQUIRE A MORE PERMANET SITE AND BUILDING IF AND WHEN POSSIBLE, PROBABLY WITHIN A FEW YEARS PROVIDED WE CAN
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PROCURE ADEQUATE FINANCING. THE PORTOMOD WOULD HOPEFULLY SERVE AS INTERIM SCHOOL BUILDING. IT WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A WORKING MODEL FOR THIS TYPE OF SEAMAN CONSTRUCTION IN A HIGH VISIBILITY AREA.

3. THE 1977-78 SCHOOL YEAR FORESEES ENROLLMENT OF 350 STUDENTS

REQUIRING 25 ROOMS. AN ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENT (IF WE LIMIT ENROLLMENT TO ONLY AMERICAN CHILDREN) WOULD BE FOR 200 STUDENTS REQUIRING 18 ROOMS.

4. COULD A PORTOMOD BE USED FOR SUCH SCHOOL PURPOSE? WOULD SEAMAN INSTALL FLOORING, NECESSARY INTERIOR PARTITIONS, LIGHTING, AIR CONDITIONING, ETC.? IF A LEASE ARRANGEMENT WERE PERMITTED, WHAT WOULD BE TIME PERIODS? WHAT WOULD BE APPROXIMATE COSTS AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE?

5. PLEASE INFORM US BY CABLE IF POSSIBLE OF JANUARY DATE OF SMITH RETURN. WE WISH TO CONFER WITH HIM OR OTHER APPROPRIATE COMPANY OFFICIAL ASAP ON ALL PHASES OF PROJECT INCLUDING COST DATA AND GUIDANCE ON FINANCING. BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESSFUL 1977. CAHILL, AMERICAN EMBASSY LAGOS.
EASUM

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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